

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The amendments to this patent application are as follows.

The Specification was amended on page 1 to correct a minor typographical error relating to the cross reference to related patent applications. The claims were amended to revise the "Use Claims" 19, 22 and 28 to be now directed to product claims. Claim 15 was amended to delete the objected to phrases "on the one hand" and "on the other". Also the claims were amended to cancel "characterized in that" and to replace this phrase with the word "wherein". Claim 15 recites that the fine filaments and the coarse filaments are each mechanically anchored in the textile support structure.

For all these reasons, all the claims are in complete compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 and 35 U.S.C. 101. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants comment upon the prior art rejections of the claims as follows.

The present invention is based upon the objective of providing a pile material that exhibits good properties uniformly across its entire surface, i.e. good scrubbing and good suction or absorption effects, while retaining its full volume everywhere. Furthermore, the objective is to improve the way the stiff threads of the pile are mechanically anchored within the structure of the carrier.

To achieve this objective, the invention provides that the threads of the pile are wholly or partially made of a multi-filament yarn that contains fine pile filaments, on the one hand, and coarse filaments on the other, whereby the titer of the coarse filaments is more than 25 times greater than the titer of the fine filaments.

In particular the fine filaments that are closely connected with the coarse filaments effect a particularly solid mechanical anchoring in the present invention and inter-clamping within the textile structure of the carrier. For that reason, filaments with a titer of less than 2.2 dtex are used as well, in connection with the present invention.

Contrary to the invention, in the cited patent document *US Patent No. 6,057,023* (to *SHIMONO ET AL*), the pile threads are

glued to the carrier structure by means of a bonding agent such as latex 4. This runs counter to the nature and purpose of the task to be accomplished in connection with the present invention. This is because the cited *SHIMONO Patent* does not contain any teaching to employ particularly fine filaments, especially filaments with a titer of under 2.2 dtex, for enhancing the way the threads of the pile are anchored within the textile structure of the carrier material.

Therefore, the present invention as claimed is neither anticipated by or obvious from, the *SHIMONO* cited document.

Therefore, claim 1 has been amended as follows to clearly distinguish over the prior art. Thus claim 1 now recites that

"the pile threads (3) are wholly or partially consisting of a multi-filament yarn containing mechanically anchored fine filaments (4) in the textile carrier structure, and mechanically anchored coarse filaments, with the titer of the coarse filaments being more than 25 times greater than the titer of the fine filaments (4)." This distinguishes over the latex bonding agent (4) of *Shimono*. (See column 2 lines 57 - 59).

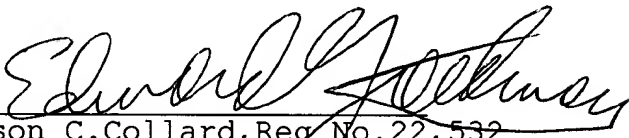
Regarding the dependent claims currently on file, these claims represent beneficial further developments or variations of the invention in that their objects are particularly fine filaments with a titer of at least 0.2 or 0.05 dtex. No filaments with such degrees of fineness are employed in the cited prior art patent document.

For all these reasons, all the pending claims 15 to 28 as amended, and the present invention are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102, but are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over all the prior art of record. A prompt notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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- Enclosures: 1- Petition One Month Extension of Time Small Entity  
2- Copy of Petition One Month Extension of Time for Small Entity

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 27, 2003.

  
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